IN THE CLAIMS:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims is as follows:

1. (amended) A method in a data processing system for monitoring a plurality of related threads, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of: polling the plurality of related threads for status information; responsive to receiving the status information, determining whether a thread

responsive to receiving the status information, determining whether a thread within a plurality of related threads is inactive; and

responsive to a determination that a thread within the plurality of related threads is inactive, initiating cleanup processes for the thread based on the status information.

- 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising: responsive to receiving the status information, storing the status information.
- 3. The method of claim, wherein the polling, determining, and initiating steps are performed by a single thread.
- 4. (amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the single thread is part of a class.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the initiating step comprises: identifying active threads within the plurality of related threads; identifying inactive threads within the plurality of related threads; and terminating inactive threads.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of terminating inactive threads includes: resetting resources allocated to an identified inactive thread such that the resources are reallocatable.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of related threads is a plurality of printer threads.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of related threads is a plurality of video threads.
- 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is implemented in a virtual machine.

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11. (amended) A method in a data processing system for monitoring a plurality of related threads, the method comprising the data processing system implemented steps of: polling the plurality of related threads for status information;

responsive to receiving the status information, determining whether a thread within a plurality of related threads is inactive; and

responsive to an occurrence of inactivity in a thread within the plurality of related threads in which the inactivity is due to an event, initiating cleanup processes based on the status information.

- 12. (amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the event is an occurrence of a period of time.
- 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the event is an error.
- 14. (amended) A data processing system for monitoring a plurality of related threads, the data processing system comprising:

polling means for polling the plurality of related threads for status information; determining means, responsive to receiving the status information, for determining whether a thread within a plurality of related threads is inactive; and

initiating means, responsive to a determination that a thread within the plurality of related threads is inactive, for initiating cleanup processes for the thread based on the status information.

- 15. The data processing system of claim 14 further comprising: storing means, responsive to receiving the status information, for storing the status information.
- 16. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the polling, determining, and initiating means are preformed by a single thread.
- 17. (amended) The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the single thread is part of a class.
- 18. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the initiating means comprises:

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first identifying means for identifying active threads within the plurality of related threads;

second identifying means for identifying inactive threads within the plurality of related threads; and

terminating means for terminating inactive threads.

19. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the means of terminating inactive threads includes:

resetting means for resetting resources allocated to an identified inactive thread such that the resources are reallocatable.

- 20. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the plurality of related threads is a plurality of printer threads.
- 21. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the plurality of related threads is a plurality of video threads.
- 22. The data processing system of claim 14, wherein the data processing system is implemented in a virtual machine.
- 23. The data processing system of claim 22, wherein the virtual machine is a Java virtual machine.
- 24. (amended) A data processing system for monitoring a plurality of related threads, the data processing system comprising:

polling means for polling the plurality of related threads for status information; determining means, responsive to receiving the status information, for determining whether a thread within a plurality of related threads is inactive; and

initiating means, responsive to an occurrence of inactivity in a thread within the plurality of related threads in which the inactivity is due to an event, for initiating cleanup processes based on the status information.

- 25. (amended) The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the event is an occurrence of a period of time.
- 26. The data processing system of claim 24, wherein the event is an error.

